

Message Text

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S E C R E T ATHENS 5098

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR U.S. AFFIRM STRONGEST
SUPPORT FOR KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT

FOR THE SECRETARY

1. MY CONVERSATION WITH DEFENSE MINISTER EVANGHELOS
AVEROFF, REPORTED SEPARATELY, CONFIRMS MY FEARS THAT
THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT FACES SERIOUS PROBLEM
OF SURVIVAL IN THE DAYS AHEAD, IN FACT, ACCORDING TO
AVEROFF IT MAY COME TOMORROW.

2. I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, IT IMPORTANT WE
CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WE CAN DO TO GIVE
KARAMANLIS THE MAXIMUM APPROPRIATE SUPPORT IN THE COMING
SHOWDOWN. AVEROFF ASKED THAT WE CONVEY TO GENERAL
GALATSANOS, CHIEF OF THE HELLENIC ARMY, AND VERY
STRONG SUPPORTER OF GENERAL IOANNIDES, AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE TERMS THAT IF THE MILITARY
SHOULD BRING DOWN THIS GOVERNMENT, THEN IT IS LIKELY
THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL STOP ALL MILITARY AID. EVEN BETTER,
HE WOULD LIKE US TO SAY WE BELIEVE GENERAL IOANNIDES HAS
BEEN A GREAT FAILURE AND THAT HIS RETURN WOULD BE
DISASTEROUS TO NATO AND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THERE
ARE OF COURSE VARIATIONS ON THIS THEME. AN ADDITIONAL
POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE TO HAVE THE JCS OR GENERAL GOODPASTER,
OR BOTH, MAKE APPROPRIATE COMMENTS TO THE GREEK MILITARY
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CHIEFS. I WOULD APPRECIATE URGENT GUIDANCE ON THIS MATTER.

3. IN ADDITION, AVEROFF ASKED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER SAY SOMETHING PUBLIC AGAINST FOR TOMORROW'S PRESS INDICATING FIRMEST U.S. SUPPORT FOR THIS GOVERNMENT. THIS COULD, OF COURSE, BE CONVEYED DIRECTLY TO THE RESPONSIBLE MILITARY. THIS COULD BE LINKED TO SENATOR PELL'S AND JACKSON'S DECISION TO DROP THEIR AMENDMENT TO THE AID BILL TO TERMINATE ALL MILITARY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO GREECE.

4. FINALLY, IF POSSIBLE, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO ANNOUNCE THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAS INVITED PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS TO VISIT HIM IN WASHINGTON AND A DATE TO BE FIXED.

5. IN CONSIDERING ABOVE HOPE YOU WILL BEAR IN MIND AVEROFF TOLD US HE HAS REJECTED PROPOSAL OF GREEK ARMED FORCES TO SEND GREEK FORCES TO CYPRUS BY SEA. TASCA

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